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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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BOARD MINUTES

HISTORIC SITE BOARD October 16, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Board Administrative Matters and General Information

- **Call to Order**

6:31 pm

- **Members Present:**

Paul Johnson
Jim Royle
Margie Warner
Eldonna Lay
Vicki Estrada

Staff Present:

Glenn Russell
Donna Beddow
Angie Buyayo
Jaime Lennox

- **Members Absent:** Carmen Lucas **Staff Absent:** Gail Wright

- **Other General Information:** None

B. Conflict of Interest Declaration: None

C. Approval of September 18, 2006 Board Minutes

Approval of the September 18, 2006 Board Minutes (as corrected); Motion by Vicki Estrada to approve minutes; 2nd by Jim Royle; motion carried 5-0-0.

D. Reports:

- Thing Brothers Store letter – Still no response from property owner;
- Lilian Rice Rowhouse – Staff is working on this item.

E. Announcements:

- San Diego County Archaeological Society meeting on Tuesday October 24, 2006, 8pm: Presenter: Steve Harvey – “Cultural Change among the Luiseño during the Protohistoric and Historic Period”
- National Preservation Conference 2006: October 31-November 5 – Pittsburgh
- California Preservation Foundation workshop in Rancho Santa Fe on October 20, 2006
- San Diego Archaeological Center on November 11, 2006; The Art of Basket Weaving Workshop
- New Staff: Jaime Lennox, Graduate Student Worker; and Angie Buyayo, Jr. LUE Planner
- C3 (Citizens Coordinate for Century 3) hosting the California Main Street Program, Main Speaker: Senator Denise Ducheny on October 26, 2006, 8 am – Holiday Inn on Harbor

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comment: None

B. County Department of Parks and Recreation: None

C. Presentation: None

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM 3 – THE DESCANSO ROCK CABIN – MAA 06-005

Applicant: Robert & Joanne Elkins
Owner: Robert & Joanne Elkins
Location: 25121 Oak Lane, Descanso, CA 91916, APN 408-232-44-00
Community Planning Group: Descanso
Supervisor District: 2- Dianne Jacob

Description: (Continued from September 18th meeting.) Built in 1929, the Descanso Rock Cabin is an eye-catching feature in the Descanso community, 38 miles east of downtown San Diego. The Cabin is situated along the banks of the Descanso Creek in an area named Descanso Park by its developer, Peter Jacobs in 1926. The Descanso Rock Cabin is an example of the original mountain retreats built in the Descanso Park area in the early 1900s. This project is being brought to the HSB for historic landmarking.

Meeting Notes: Majority of the Board visited the resource. J. Royle suggested that the Board needs to note the difference between landmarking (requiring retention of sufficient historic “fabric” of the resource) and Mills Act (which could condition changes). V. Estrada recommended to change “mature” landscaping to “mature” oak trees and rock outcroppings in project description. E. Lay applauded owner for gathering natural sand for concrete.

Owner, J. Elkins, expressed concern with historical designator. Elkins mentioned that she applied mainly because it was part of the discretionary permit process for the Bed and Breakfast license. How will it affect them as far as maintaining the building? Staff replied that regular maintenance is expected and does not need permission from County. Owner had conflict with

neighbor who “threatened” Elkins to comply with building code (ex. single wall construction). J. Royle mentioned that as a designated historical building there is more flexibility on the historical building code versus standard building code. Owner asked about the implications of designation. Staff discussed that the designation could be considered as a “pride of ownership” or “mark of recognition.” Owner had other concerns that may withhold the process, such as similar buildings in the area demolished and a scenic designator. Staff reported of no scenic designator in area. P. Johnson asked if maintenance would have to comply with the Secretary of Interior building standards. Staff reported that if similar materials were used it should comply. Owner wanted further clarification on nomination as historically significant, will it go on deed? Staff reported that this designation will not be recorded. P. Johnson added that the California Historical Building Code would assist them in disabled access through alternative compliance measures.

Board Action: Recommend placement of this house, on lot APN 408-232-44-00, on the Local Register of Historic Resources including “mature oak trees and rock outcroppings” in lieu of “mature landscaping” as Landmark Number 2006-005. The Board finds this resource to be significant under Criteria V (b) (3) Distinctive characteristics of a type and period in San Diego County’s history.

Motion to approve recommendation by Vicki Estrada;
2nd by Eldonna Lay.
Motion carried 5-0-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4 – RANCHO SANTA FE LILIAN RICE HOME MODIFICATION

Description: Consultant Vonn Marie May and the owners of this property are asking the Board for comments relating to the proposed modifications that would bring this property back more to its original design and be eligible for County historic listing. Site Plans were distributed to Board members at the September meeting for review.

Meeting Notes: Owner was represented by consultant Vonn Marie May. May discussed owner’s situation juggling two Boards, Historic Site Board and Rancho Santa Fe (RSF) Art Jury. Owner would like more definitive statements from Board to designate property and participate in Mills Act. Suggestions were made as to the 1) removal of the rock wainscoting, 2) change of Terra Cotta pipe, 3) alter window into recessed faux door, 4) eliminate shutters, 5) light fixture needs to be shown on plans, 6) pot shelves reversed to stairs, and 7) pillars, remove rock and stucco over. Margie Warner commented on the pillars if original or not; suggested to be removed or stuccoed over. Staff to send letter to RSF Art Jury on Board’s recommendations.

ITEM 5 - HISTORIC HIGHWAY 80, LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Description: County Parks has initiated a legislative proposal that would designate segments of former U.S. Highway Route 80 in San Diego and Imperial counties as Historic U.S. Highway 80, and would request the Department of Transportation to design and facilitate the posting of appropriate signs and take related actions in that regard. Should the Board prepare and send a letter of support for this legislative proposal?

Meeting Notes: V. Estrada recommends a couple of signs that describe the historic scenic corridor. Staff needs to follow-up on letter to obtain clarification of the requested actions before preparing a formal letter.

ITEM 6 – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next meeting will take place on Monday, November 20, 2006

ITEM 7– ADJOURNMENT

7:45 PM

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Chairman, Jim Royle

November 20, 2006

Vice-Chairman, Paul Johnson

November 20, 2006